

गम्भीर (गम्भीर) वा गम्भीर  
वा. गम्भीर

### Characteristics of a saintly devotee

#### 21. A devotee is always *gambhīra* (grave, profound or sober) by nature

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—Om Viṣṇupāda Śrī Śrīmad Bhakti Siddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura Prabhupāda

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The antonym of *gambhīra* (grave, profound) is *cañcala* (restless, fickle). The material world is perishable and transient, inherently marked by impermanence and instability. All the activities of the body and mind are fleeting, bound by temporality.

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However, the Vaiṣṇavas are not bound or fettered by the bodily and mental activities. Rooted in their eternal spiritual nature, they stand firm in genuine profundity.

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The self (*ātmā*) is replete with wondrous variegation, yet this variegation is eternal and immutable, untouched by the distortions imposed by the gross body or the subtle mind.

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### The Depth of a Vaiṣṇava's Gravity

The souls ensnared in *māyā* labor tirelessly, day and night, in pursuit of worship (*pūjā*), prestige (*pratiṣṭhā*), wealth (*kāñcana*), and sensual pleasures with women (*kāminī*), longing for the fleeting joys of heavenly pleasures and liberation.

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Yet, all these aspirations are unstable and transient. Consequently, those who covet them—the *karmīs*, the *yogīs*, and the *jñānīs*—remain restless, ever fluctuating like waves upon the ocean.

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In contrast, the *bhaktas*, the surrendered devotees of the Lord, desire none of these ephemeral things. Thus, they are steadfast, unwavering, and truly profound—*gambhīra*.

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***bhaktis tvayī sthīratārā bhagavan yadī syād  
daivena naḥ phalati divya-kīśora-mūrtiḥ  
muktiḥ svayaṁ mukulitāñjaliḥ sevate 'smān  
dharmārtha-kāma-gatayaḥ samaya-pratikṣāḥ***

(Kṛṣṇa-karṇāmṛta 107)

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**Translation:** O Bhagavān! If my devotion unto Your lotus feet remains ever resolute and unwavering, then, by divine fortune, Your transcendental *kīśora* (eternally youthful) form will manifest within my heart as the supreme object of my worship.

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In such a state, even *mukti* (liberation) will stand before me with folded hands, eager to serve. *Dharma* (righteousness), *artha* (wealth), and *kāma* (desires) will stand in submission, awaiting my command.

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Even when Rāmacandra Khān, a hater of Vaiṣṇavas, sent a courtesan to seduce *parama-bhakta* (topmost devotee) Śrī Haridāsa Ṭhākura, she could not destroy his profound gravity (*gambhīratā*).

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Similarly, Sārvabhauma Bhaṭṭācārya, despite expounding *māyāvāda* philosophy to Śrīman Mahāprabhu for several days, could not destroy His depth and steadiness (*gambhīratā*) in the slightest.

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Thus, the Vaiṣṇavas are always grave—unwavering in their transcendental resolve.